

ACCOUNTING IN PEER-TO-PEER DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Abstract of Disclosure

The invention is a method, a system, and network nodes for charging for services in a data communications network having a User, a Service Provider, an Accounting Manager and an Accounting Storage. When a user wants to access a service, it sends a request to the Accounting Manager that validates the request in order to send a service credential to the User and a user credential to the Service Provider. The User then sends a service request to the Service Provider and the requested service is initiated. When the service is terminated, the Service Provider sends an accounting message to the Accounting Manager that sends the accounting data to the Accounting Storage that stores the data, and, upon reception of an acknowledgement, deletes the data it sent to the Accounting Storage. Also described are the system and the network nodes for carrying out the invention.